

Message Text

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OIC-02 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 STR-04 EPG-02
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PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /126 W

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SUBJECT: SIXTH SESSION OF CONSULTATIVE PANEL ON PUBLIC INFORMATION
(CPPI)

1. SUMMARY: GENERAL APPROVAL FOR OPI WORK AND PLANS WAS VOICED AT SIXTH SESSION OF CONSULTATIVE PANEL ON PUBLIC INFORMATION (CPPI) HELD APRIL 25-26. USSR FAILED TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE OF ITS PROPOSAL TO BROADEN PANEL'S MANDATE. SOME CONTENTION OVER OPI OBJECTIVITY AROSE IN CONNECTION WITH A FILM ON THE NIEO SHOWN TO PANEL MEMBERS. END SUMMARY.

2. SIXTH SESSION OF CONSULTATIVE PANEL ON PUBLIC INFORMATION (CPPI) WAS HELD APRIL 25-26. TWENTY-TWO COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED. SYG WALDHEIM ATTENDED PART OF FIRST MEETING AND FSRED OPENING REMARKS, FOLLOWING ON HIS NOTE ON INFORMATION PROBLEMS OF MARCH 4. PRINCIPAL THEME IN HIS REMARKS WAS THAT PREJUDICE AGAINST U.N. HAD DIMINISHED IN PAST YEAR, DUE TO IMPROVED U.N. PERFORMANCE AS WELL AS BETTER PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT. HE PARTICULARLY NOTED QTE
A

NEW SPIRIT UNQTE TOWARD U.N. IN THE U.S. WHICH HE HAD OBSERVED DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO WASHINGTON. FOLLOWING WERE MAJOR TOPICS DISCUSSED BY PANEL MEMBERS:

(A) PUBLICITY FOR THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

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SYG NOTE OBSERVED THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF NIEO HAD EMERGED AS A MAJOR NEW OBJECTIVE OF THE U.N. MEMBERSHIP, AND STRENGTHENING OF EFFECTIVENESS IN THE U.N. OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (OPI) IN AREA OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFORMATION WOULD BE IMPORTANT CONCERN OF SYG FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. PANEL MEMBERS WERE SHOWN TWELVE MINUTE FILM JUST PRODUCED BY OPI, USING A CARD GAME TO EXPLAIN HOW PRESENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC

ORDER WORKS AND WHY QTE THE MEMBER STATES OF THE U.N.
UNQTE HAD DECIDED TO CHANGE RULES OF THE GAME. MOST SPEAKERS
APPLAUDED OPI ATTENTION TO NIEO OR ASKED FOR EVEN MORE.
U.S. (NORBURY) SAID OPI SHOULD
GIVE BALANCED PRESENTATION OF U.N. DEVELOPMENTS WITH DUE REGARD
TO MINORITY VIEWPOINTS, AVOIDING THE ADVOCACY OF POSITIONS NOT
SHARED BY ALL. NOTED THAT 23 MEMBER STATES HAD VOTED AGAINST
OR ABSTAINED ON 1975 GA RES CALLING FOR PUBLICITY ABOUT THE
NIEO. OBJECTED TO IMPLICATION IN FILM THAT ENTIRE UN MEMBERSHIP
HAD DECIDED TO CHANGE RULES OF ECONOMIC GAME AND TO FILM'S ONE-
SIDED EXPLANATION OF REASONS FOR PRESENT UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION
OF WORLD'S WEALTH. PERU (BENAVIDES) ATTACKED THE FILM ON OTHER
GROUNDS, OBJECTING TO ITS PREMISE THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALSO
WISHED TO BECOME RICH, FACT THAT CARD PLAYERS REPRESENTING
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LOOKED JUST LIKE THOSE REPRESENTING
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND INCLUSION OF LUCK AS ONE REASON
FOR UNDERDEVELOPMENT.

(B) ROLE OF CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFORMATION
(CESI). SYG NOTE SAID THAT DUE TO REDFINITION OF CESI FUNCTIONS
ITS STAFF WOULD BE REDUCED BY ONE-THIRD AND 78-79 BUDGET WOULD
PROPOSE THAT REMAINING STAFF BE FULLY FUNDED FROM REGULAR
BUDGET INSTEAD OF ONLY PARTLY AS IS NOW THE CASE. MOST SPEAKERS
SUPPORTED PROPOSAL. USSR (MAKSUDOV) OBJECTED THAT IT WAS
CONTRARY TO ORIGINAL UNDERSTANDING WHEN CESI WAS CREATED THAT IT
WOULD BE FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS. US SAID THIS WAS AN
ISSUE BEST LEFT TO ACABQ AND FIFTH COMMITTEE.

(C) PUBLICITY FOR WORLD CONFERENCE. SYG NOTE URGED
ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN BUDGET FOR EACH
MAJOR WORLD CONFERENCE. SEVERAL PANELISTS ONDORSED THIS; NO ONE
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DISSENTED.

(D) INFORMATION CENTERS. SYG NOTE SAID INFO CENTER SYSTEM WOULD
BE STRENGTHENED NOT BY ADDING NEW ONES BUT BY IMPROVING SERVICING
OF EXISTING ONES. HE ALSO NOTED THAT JOINT INSPECTION UNIT
RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSOLIDATING INFO SERVICES OF INDIVIDUAL UN
ORGANIZATIONS WAS NOW BEING STUDIED. BOTH IMPROVED SERVICING AND
CONSOLIDATION GOT HIGH MARKS FROM MOST SPEAKERS.

(E) DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS. INDIA (IYER) COMPLAINED THAT
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE GETTING INADEQUATE SHARE OF INFORMATION
CENTER DIRECTOR POSTS. US POINTED OUT THAT EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC
DISTRIBUTION APPLIED TO SECRETARIAT AS A WHOLE, NOT TO ANY
SPECIFIC DEPARTMENTS OR TYPES OF JOB; IN FACT, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
HAD HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF CENTER DIRECTORS THAN THEIR PERCENTAGE
QUOTA FOR SECRETARIAT AS A WHOLE, WHILE US WAS FAR BELOW ITS
PERCENTAGE. POLAND (SOKALSKI) OBJECTED TO LOW EE REPRESENTATION
IN OPI AT HEADQUARTERS. US NOTED THAT POLISH FIGURES
EVIDENTLY COMPRISED GS AS WELL AS PROFESSIONAL CATEGORIES, AND
THAT PRINCIPLES OF GEOGRAPHIC BALANCE DO NOT APPLY TO GA
EMPLOYEES.

(F) NON-ALIGNED NEWS POOL. SYG NOTE SAID OPI IS ALREADY MAKING AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE OUTPUT OF THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED POOL OF NON-ALIGNED NEWS AGENCIES AND IS EXPLORING WAYS OF INTENSIFYING COOPERATION WITH IT. SEVERAL PANELISTS LAUDED THIS EFFORT, AND MANY (E.G. DEMOCRATIC YEMEN, PERU, ROMANIA, TRINIDAD/TOBAGO, CZECHOSLOVAKIA) TOOK THE OCCASION TO SCORE QTE MONOPOLIST UNQTE WESTERN NEWS AGENCIES FOR THEIR BIASED AND INADEQUATE COVERAGE OF UN EVENTS. US NOTED THAT CRITICISMS OF MEDIA WAS OVERDONE; IT WAS NATURAL FOR MEDIA TO HIGHLIGHT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES AT UN. WHILE OPI, OF COURSE, HAD A DUTY TO POUT UP LESS DRAMATIC UN ACCOMPLISHMENTS, IN END AS SYG HAD OBSERVED, UN WOULD BE PRIMARILY JUDGED BY ITS PERFORMANCE.

(G) ORGANIZATION OF OPI. JAPAN (AMBASSADOR ABE) SUPPORTED BY TUNISIA (AMBASSADOR MESTIRI) AND JORDAN, URGED ACCEPTANCE OF SYG RECOMMENDATION LAST DECEMBER THAT OPI BE RESTORED TO THE STATUS OF A DEPARTMENT AND THAT ITS HEAD BE MADE AN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL.

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(H) ROLE OF CPPI. USSR (MAKSUDOV), SUPPORTED BY ITS EE ALLIES AND FEW OTHERS, URGED THAT SYG BE REQUIRED TO REPORT EACH YEAR ON HIS REACTION TO SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY CPPI MEMBERS, AND THAT PANEL'S SESSION BE LENGTHENED. OTHERS, INCLUDING US, NOTED THAT PANEL DID NOT HAVE THE MANDATE TO REQUIRE SECRETARIAT RESPONSE TO INDIVIDUAL RECOMMENDATIONS, AND SHOULD LIMIT ITSELF TO PROVIDING GENERAL ADVICE AND COMMENTS ON OPI POLICY AND OPERATIONS. THUS, NO CONSENSUS WAS REACHED ON SOVIET SUGGESTION. TUNISIA REVERTED TO ITS FAVORITE THEME THAT OPI SHOULD BE TAKE OUT OF FIFTH COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION AND HANDLED BY A POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR THE PLENARY.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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